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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Poland

SUBJECT Water Supply and Sewage Systems

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SOURCE

1. The water supply and sewage systems used in the city of Poznan are the same as those in use in all of the larger cities in Poland and in most of the larger cities in Germany.

WATER SUPPLY

2. The type of pipe used in the water supply system in Poznan is the HV (Metzfeld Viktorius) which is also known as the Mannesman seamless steel pipe. These pipes range in size from four to ~~forty~~-six inches. I do not recall the weight of the pipes, but they were similar to those used by the Germans, and I am sure that the exact weights could be determined from German catalogs. Most of the pipes are manufactured at Wiengerska Gurka, and some in Chorzow.
3. The Kielichowe, a muffler type joint, is used in the water pipe line connections. In this type of joint the end of one pipe is inserted into the collar of the next pipe. Hot lead is then poured into the opening and when cooled this lead ring is pounded by hammer and chisel; then bituminous tar and felt rope are taped over the lead ring. The pipes are all tarred, covered by strips of tarred paper, and then the entire pipe is retarred.

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4. In most cases the length of life of the water pipes is approximately thirty years. Usually, at the end of this period the inspecting teams look over the water pipes, and if they are still in good condition, they are turned a half turn over and sometimes last for another thirty years.
5. The type of feed lines used to connect the water mains with the users depends upon the size of the buildings to be serviced. Factories which fall into the "first class" category have to have two water feed lines. Although both are connected to one meter, one line is not allowed to be tapped by the consumer except in emergencies and then only to supply the fire hydrants. These feed line pipes are also of the Mannesman seamless steel variety and range in size from four inches up to two feet. Types of feed line are also determined by the size of the main line in the street and by the size of the factory user. Consumers falling into the "first class" category can get a six-inch pipe instead of a four-inch pipe, after obtaining permission from the Ministry. Single homes usually are serviced by one-inch seamless steel pipe-feeder lines. All of the water supply feeder lines are hot zinc coated. Only a Ministry licensed contractor with special authorization from the city magistrate is allowed to install the water supply equipment.
6. The water supply in Poznan comes from the Watra River. Additional sources of water supply are from reservoirs located in the Debina area of Poznan. Pumping stations with machinery installed to fulfill the capacity for 1,100,000 persons are in use. Additional pumping stations located at Solacz and on the Bogdana stream could increase the capacity for servicing another 200,000 persons. The water is very potable--the best I have ever tasted. It is soft water in its natural state and additional treatment makes it even better. The water pressure available is six atmospheres which is adequate for all of the city's requirements. For building use it is reduced to four atmospheres. The water supply distribution is more than adequate and maintenance equipment is all in top-shape. During the prosperous years of 1928, 1929, and 1930 the entire water supply system was rebuilt and many new installations were provided. A program for expansion was in existence, but whether it has been put into use as yet is beyond my knowledge.

SEWAGE SYSTEMS

7. Types and sizes of pipes used for sewage systems are as follows. Pipes from 150 millimeters to 10 inches are made of clay (tile); from 10 inches to three feet are made of cement; and from three feet to five feet are elliptical and made of cement and masonry. The clay pipes are made at Kaminy-Podlasky, Poznan, and Chorzow. All other types of sewage pipe are manufactured in Jozefow. Muffler (muffenhür) type joints are used in the connections of all sewage pipes. These pipes are exceedingly durable. I uncovered some which had been in the ground for hundreds of years.
8. The standard distance between manholes in Poland is 50 meters. The only exception to this is in instances where one sewage line is connected with another. In these cases additional manholes are provided for entry.
9. All factories having industrial waste, with or without chemical content, must have a glazed-type of exit sewage pipe. A minimum of 150 meters of such pipe is required to carry the industrial waste sewage to the main sewage arteries. Plants which have their own sewage treatment stations are the only exceptions to this requirement. The waste, upon leaving the artery, is pumped into a main collecting point and there it is neutralized. Every pumping station has such a system for treating industrial waste. After being neutralized it is pumped beyond the city and into the nearby river.

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10. A mechanical system for cleaning sewers is used. Heavy wastes are pumped out of the sewers by mechanical means, and the sewers are then flushed by forcing treated water into them. Another method employed for cleaning sewers is to force all the sewage wastes into a large field beyond the city. After drainage, the sediment is collected and disposed of.
11. Separate sanitary and storm sewer construction is standard practice where the streets are not too narrow; dual sewers are constructed in instances where electricity, gas, and telephone lines do not permit two individual systems. The dual sewer is built of a cement cap and masonry bottom and is usually one and one-half meters in diameter. A dividing partition is built along the bottom, separating the sanitary sewage from the storm water. Poznan, an old city undermined with many catacombs, has more dual sewer construction than Gdynia or other large Polish cities.

FIRE HYDRANTS

12. Fire protection is also good. Fire hydrants are spaced every 300 meters with extra fire hydrants around large factories. These hydrants are connected by both a four-inch pipe, and a six-inch pipe. The six-inch pipe is used only in case of severe fires. Fire hydrants are all located underground with the connections and controls underneath steel manhole covers. During the period from 1936 to 1939 every factory, residential area, military fort, and outlying suburb installed large water tanks or towers for additional protection in case of an emergency.

GAS AND ELECTRICAL SERVICES

13. Expansion plans for both gas and electrical services in Poznan fell into the hands of the Soviets as did the civil defense plans. I was able to destroy the water supply expansion plans when the Germans evacuated Poznan in a hurry and were not able to do so themselves.

REFUSE DISPOSAL

14. Garbage, trash, and domestic waste in Poznan are collected and burned in an incinerator located in the Szelag area. It is here that the papers, rags, and metals are separated and disposed of. Fine ash produced by the burning of trash, garbage, and waste is converted into commercial fertilizer and is utilized by the city authorities. The coarser ashes are mixed with cement and made into plates used in paving the city streets.

STATUS OF PLANTS

15. I have no idea as to the current activities in the old fair buildings near the main railroad station in Poznan. Following a two-day raid by the USAF in 1942, the German authorities redistributed the manufacturing of aircraft parts to various plants around Poznan, mostly in the outlying sections. It is believed that these extensive outlying factories were not destroyed, and, therefore, are probably still in production. Two such factories were at Kobylo Pole, and Chervonek. I do not know the present status of the aircraft plant at the airfield southeast of the city, but I do remember that it was not totally destroyed.
16. Motor vehicle plants in and near the city are "Cigielski" Numbers 3 and 7. Number 3 is located near Warstat Kolejowe; Number 7 is at Glowina.
17. Another metal fabricating plant, other than Cigielski, is the Wiepofana, located on Dobrowskiego Street. This consists of a foundry, forge, and a gun barrel machine shop. The foundry produces bronze forgings for armatures, couplings, and other friction-type bearings, and non-electrical conducting parts. North of the Cigielski #7 at Glowina was the "Koncern Magi". Besides producing metal parts this firm also produced acetylene gas and other carbonized products.

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18. The chemical plant (Koncern Maj) and the Lubonska Fabrik Drozde, located at the horseshow bend of the Warta river south of the city, produces bacteriological molds, cultures, and other supplies which are shipped to universities and also exported. What the present-day production is, I do not know.

GENERAL

19. The Soviets recognize Poznan as a city of great importance and have placed it in the category of "1st class". Therefore, without a doubt, all facilities, especially the water supply system, must have been rebuilt and are probably now in top shape. Information received [REDACTED]

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20. Because of the importance the Soviets attach to Poznan, I believe the city has been entirely reconstructed. Experts from less strategic Polish cities have been recruited by the Soviets and their services utilized in Poznan. In addition scarce items such as motors, armatures, and railroad equipment (switches, signals, etc) were brought into the city by the Soviets and the railroad was widened to conform with Russian gauge. All important military headquarters are centered in Poznan.

21. Although plant and street names have been changed by the Soviets, letters [REDACTED] still used the old Polish street and factory names. [REDACTED] new constructions being undertaken are the gas works, electric power stations, and the railway repair shops. I have no information as to residential construction, but undoubtedly, there has been some of that too.

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